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ABSTRACT

A three-point statement by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) calls for the expansion of higher education opportunity in America. The statement, which was adopted by the association's members at the annual meeting, calls for: expansion of opportunity through a balanced program of relatively low or no tuition at public colleges and universities, adequate student aid, and limited reliance on expensive, long-term student loans: protection of public institutions and their students from restrictive federal regulations that could hamper institutional efforts to serve students: and adequate assistance for scientific research, health manpower, agriculture, urban development, and other programs intended to help colleges and universities serve American society more effectively. AASCU believes that a combination of low or no tuition, Basic Educational Opportunity Grants, and a greatly expanded College Work-Study program should enable most of the public college and university students to afford an education without going into large long-term debts. Adequate support for the Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grant and National Direct Student Loan programs also is essential. The substitution of expensive and untried new loan programs is not supported by AASCU. Views on other federal programs and state-federal-institutional relations are discussed. AASCU member institutions are listed. (SW)

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National Imperatives for Higher Education 1980

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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The American Association of State Colleges and Universities reaffirms its commitment to: the basic principle of equality of opportunity to assure students from all walks of life access to higher education; the equitable distribution of federal funding to further a diverse, yet effective higher education system throughout the nation; and, a strengthened voice for higher education to rectify present—and prevent future—unreasonable regulation and intrusion from federal and state governments.

Access to Higher Education through Low Tuition and Student Aid

AASCU believes that every person in America is entitled to a postsecondary education that fits her or his needs and qualifications. Lack of funds should not be a barrier to opportunity.

Low or no tuition colleges and universities are an essential part of the American postsecondary system. They enroll about 80 percent of all college students; a higher percentage in many states. Low or no tuition offers a long-term guarantee of educational opportunity with far more certainty than student aid programs.

Student aid is a supplement, not a substitute, for low tuition. In no case should tuition and other charges be raised in the hope that student aid will somehow "provide for all those who really need help," or on the more dangerous assumption that most students should finance their education through expensive loans and large debts. Part-time and adult students should be included in all federal and state student aid programs on an equitable basis.

The federal government is to be congratulated on two major legislative initiatives in the past two years. The first is the Middle-Income Student Assistance Act (MISAA), which substantially increased student aid to middle-income as well as lower-income families in 1978. The second is the new 1979-1980 amendments to the Higher Education Act, now making their way through Congress. While the outcome is not yet certain, it appears that the federal government will move still further toward the goal of expansion of higher educational opportunity.

AASCU believes that a combination of low or no tuition, Basic Educational Opportunity Grants, and a greatly expanded College Work-Study program should enable most of the students attending public colleges and universities to afford an education with-

out going into large long-term debts. The modification of the half-cost feature in BEOG, which discriminates against most low-income students, and further extension of the College Work-Study program to middle-income as well as low-income students also will help achieve this purpose.

College Work-Study also should be made a more educationally relevant program by encouraging colleges to develop job opportunities both on and off campus that are related more closely to students' career goals. AASCU hails the support for this "cooperative education" approach to College Work-Study in both houses of Congress.

Adequate support for the Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grant and National Direct Student Loan programs also is essential.

Every state and federal policy-maker should view with great caution proposals for long-term, high-interest loans, contingency repayment plans, and "student loan bank" or "tuition advance fund" proposals, to make sure they are not based on plans to force public higher education tuition much higher, require many more students to rely on expensive loans, and thus deny access to many who would not be able to afford a postsecondary education.

For this reason, AASCU strongly supports the combination of the present NDSL and GSL program, with necessary modifications, rather than the substitution of expensive and untried new loan programs.

An adequate G.I. bill program, without undue federal intervention into the educational process, also should be continued. It has proved its usefulness for more than 33 years. Congress also should continue the Social Security student beneficiary program without change. This essential program makes it possible for hundreds of thousands of needy students to attend college.

State-Federal-Institutional Relations

AASCU views with great concern federal legislative efforts to mandate particular forms of state planning agencies or other state boards or commissions to oversee higher education. Each state should be allowed to develop its own system of public higher education in its own way, without federal restrictions.

AASCU also is deeply concerned about efforts in some states to "reappropriate" federal funds to

educational institutions, including student aid and research grants. This could affect the plans of millions of students by making it difficult for them to know in time whether they will receive federal student aid.

AASCU member institutions have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal funds for training programs and aid to disadvantaged students because it has been impossible to comply with both federal and state timetables relating to reappropriation of funds already awarded to the colleges.

In 1978, AASCU formed and led a coalition of some 32 organizations representing higher education, elementary-secondary education, minority groups, organized labor, and others, which filed an amicus curiae brief before the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of a Pennsylvania law requiring the reappropriation of federal funds in that state. While the Court chose not to intervene in that case, AASCU hopes similar laws will face further legal challenges in the future.

Meanwhile, AASCU urges all state legislatures to exempt from such laws in their states the inclusion of higher education, for which timeliness in research grants and grants to students is especially important.

More Equitable Federal Funding

All colleges and universities, public and private, research-oriented and teaching-oriented, in all parts of the country, will serve America more effectively if they have the opportunity to compete for federal funds. Research, training, and service funds should not be restricted to one sector or geographic region.

Institutions of higher education need a stable base of financial support that does not depend on enrollment alone. Teaching, research, and public service activities cannot be "supported" simply by student aid; they must be developed over time in a responsible way.

Further, both public and private institutions are in financial distress at a time when they are being called upon to expand educational services, especially for the disadvantaged to help society resolve many of its most critical problems, and to undertake additional institutional responsibilities to comply with federal laws relating to ending discrimination based on age, ethnicity, race, physical handicap, and sex.

Funds also should be directed to the renewal of faculty in American institutions of higher education.

Mandatory retirement has increased the opportunity for service of existing faculty. Dwindling birth rates have reduced college enrollments so that new growth can no longer assure the addition of new and younger faculty – including minorities and women. Thus, the traditional route for renewing our institutions of higher education is less available. Federal aid is needed to provide this renewal.

For this reason, AASCU hails the proposed new School of Education Assistance Act, which would provide assistance to schools and departments of education and to individual faculty to upgrade and to develop new skills to meet changing social needs. This bill has strong support in both houses of Congress. Similar legislation is needed to help faculty and graduate students in other disciplines adjust to changing manpower and social needs.

Student aid administrative allowance and student information programs also need to be funded more fully as a way to help colleges meet the massive burden imposed by the implementation of federal student aid programs at the campus level.

There is an urgent need for facilities funds to renovate buildings in order to fulfill the requirements for energy conservation and to provide access for the handicapped. In many areas, a major shortage of housing makes it essential to obtain more college housing loan funding, if many students are to have access to an education.

Other Federal Programs

A wide range of other federal programs have served higher education and the nation well: aid to disadvantaged students; community service and continuing education; college library assistance; specialized teacher training programs; health manpower training; the programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Foundations on the Arts and Humanities; programs to encourage educational research and innovation under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education; aid to developing colleges; postsecondary vocational education; the new youth employment programs; and others.

AASCU members support the continuation of all these programs. Each of them strengthens one or more important parts of the American higher education enterprise.

AASCU is particularly concerned about the state of science education. Greater efforts must be made to assure quality science education at an early age to men and women of all races.

When the federal government supports training, research or service programs, it should provide adequate support for legitimate indirect costs as well. To do otherwise is to place very serious financial burdens on institutions of higher education.

AASCU institutions have a strong interest in the proposed new "urban grant university" program, which probably will become part of the Higher Education Act. Colleges and universities can serve urban populations as they have served rural America, through basic and applied research, services, and education to meet rapidly evolving urban needs. In both rural and urban programs, it is essential to include institutions with a capability to disseminate and implement research findings.

AASCU institutions also are increasing their commitment to international education. America should attract to its shores potential foreign leaders during their undergraduate and graduate years. AASCU institutions which have a balanced program combining the liberal arts and various applied and professional fields are uniquely situated to contribute to the education of the potential leaders from developing nations. There is also a need for highly trained Americans to contribute to the staffing of evolving foreign colleges and universities. With the increase in the mandatory retirement age and the many talented individuals now completing their graduate work, opportunities for worthwhile academic service abroad are in the interest of both foreign and domestic institutions as well as the individuals involved.

AASCU institutions have a deep commitment to international education. They are ready and eager to provide assistance in a variety of programs for developing nations – education, research, and services in agriculture, health, scientific and technological cooperation, and other fields – to these nations. AASCU institutions already participate in a number of such programs. They are appreciative that Congress and many executive agencies are calling on them increasingly to do so.

Adopted by the AASCU membership during its 19th Annual Meeting, November 1979.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

ALABAMA

Alabama State University
Jacksonville State University
Livingston University
Troy State University
University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Montevallo
University of North Alabama
University of South Alabama

ALASKA

University of Alaska, Anchorage
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

ARIZONA

Northern Arizona University

ARKANSAS

Arkansas State University
Arkansas Tech University
Henderson State University
Southern Arkansas University
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
University of Arkansas at Monticello
University of Central Arkansas

CALIFORNIA

California Maritime Academy
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
California State College, Bakersfield
California State College, San Bernadino
California State College, Stanislaus
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
Humboldt State University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
Sonoma State University

COLORADO

Adams State College
Fort Lewis College
Mesa College
Metropolitan State College
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
University of Northern Colorado
University of Southern Colorado
Western State College of Colorado

CONNECTICUT

Central Connecticut State College
Eastern Connecticut State College
Southern Connecticut State College
Western Connecticut State College

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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FLORIDA

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Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University
University of Central Florida
University of North Florida
University of South Florida
University of West Florida

GEORGIA

Albany State College
Armstrong State College
Augusta College

Columbus College
Georgia College
Georgia Southern College
Georgia State University
North Georgia College
Savannah State College
Valdosta State College
West Georgia College

GUAM

University of Guam

HAWAII

West Oahu College
University of Hawaii at Hilo

IDAHO

Boise State University
Idaho State University
Lewis-Clark State College

ILLINOIS

Chicago State University
Eastern Illinois University
Governors State University
Illinois State University
Northeastern Illinois University
Northern Illinois University
Sangamon State University
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
Western Illinois University

INDIANA

Ball State University
Indiana State University
Indiana State University, Evansville Campus

IOWA

University of Northern Iowa

KANSAS

Emporia State University
Fort Hays State University
Pittsburgh State University
Wichita State University

KENTUCKY

Eastern Kentucky University
Morehead State University
Murray State University
Northern Kentucky State University
Western Kentucky University

LOUISIANA

Grambling State University
Louisiana Tech University
McNeese State University
Nicholls State University
Northeast Louisiana University
Northwestern State University of Louisiana
Southeastern Louisiana University
University of Southwestern Louisiana

MAINE

Maine Maritime Academy
University of Maine at Farmington
University of Maine at Fort Kent
University of Maine at Machias
University of Maine at Presque Isle
University of Southern Maine

MARYLAND

Bowie State College
Coppin State College
Frostburg State College
Morgan State University
Salisbury State College
St. Mary's College of Maryland
Towson State University
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston State College
Bridgewater State College
Fitchburg State College
Framingham State College
Massachusetts College of Art
Massachusetts Maritime Academy

North Adams State College
Salem State College
Southeastern Massachusetts University
University of Lowell
Westfield State College
Worcester State College

MICHIGAN

Central Michigan University
Eastern Michigan University
Ferris State College
Grand Valley State Colleges
Lake Superior State College
Northern Michigan University
Oakland University
Saginaw Valley State College
Western Michigan University

MINNESOTA

Mankato State University
Metropolitan State University
Moorhead State University
St. Cloud State University
Winona State University

MISSISSIPPI

Alcorn State University
Delta State University
Jackson State University
Mississippi University for Women
Mississippi Valley State University
University of Southern Mississippi

MISSOURI

Central Missouri State University
Harris/Stowe College
Missouri Southern State College
Missouri Western State College
Northeast Missouri State University
Northwest Missouri State University
Southeast Missouri State University
Southwest Missouri State University
University of Missouri at St. Louis

MONTANA

Eastern Montana College
Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology
Northern Montana College
Western Montana College

NEBRASKA

Chadron State College
Kearney State College
Peru State College
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Wayne State College

NEVADA

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Keene State College
Plymouth State College

NEW JERSEY

Jersey City State College
Kean College of New Jersey
Montclair State College
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Stockton State College
Thomas A. Edison College
Trenton State College
William Paterson College of New Jersey

NEW MEXICO

Eastern New Mexico University
New Mexico Highlands University
Western New Mexico University

NEW YORK

City University of New York – Bernard Baruch College
City University of New York – John Jay College of Criminal Justice
City University of New York – Medgar Evers College
College of Staten Island
Empire State College
State University College of Technology at Utica/Rome
State University College at Brockport
State University College at Buffalo
State University College at Cortland
State University College at Fredonia
State University College at New Paltz
State University College at Oneonta
State University College at Potsdam
State University College at Purchase
State University College of Arts & Science at Geneseo
State University College of Arts & Science at Plattsburgh

NORTH CAROLINA

Appalachian State University
East Carolina University
Elizabeth City State University
Fayetteville State University
North Carolina Central University
Pembroke State University
The University of North Carolina at Asheville
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
The University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Western Carolina University
Winston-Salem University

NORTH DAKOTA

Dickinson State College
Mayville State College
Minot State College
Valley City State College

OHIO

Bowling Green State University
Central State University
Cleveland State University
Kent State University
University of Akron
University of Toledo
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

OKLAHOMA

Central State University
East Central Oklahoma State University
Northeastern Oklahoma State University
Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Oklahoma Panhandle State University
Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
University of Science and Art of Oklahoma

OREGON

Eastern Oregon State College
Oregon College of Education
Oregon Institute of Technology
Portland State University
Southern Oregon State College

PENNSYLVANIA

Bloomsburg State College
California State College
The Capital Campus Pennsylvania State University
Cheyney State College
Clarion State College
East Stroudsburg State College
Edinboro State College
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Kutztown State College
Lincoln University
Lock Haven State College
Mansfield State College
Millersville State College
Shippensburg State College
Slippery Rock State College

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
West Chester State College

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island College

SOUTH CAROLINA

Coastal Carolina College of the University of South Carolina
The College of Charleston
Francis Marion College
Lander College
University of South Carolina at Aiken
University of South Carolina at Spartanburg
Winthrop College

SOUTH DAKOTA

Black Hills State College
Dakota State College
Northern State College
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
University of South Dakota at Springfield

TENNESSEE

Austin Peay State University
East Tennessee State University
Memphis State University
Middle Tennessee State University
Tennessee Technological University
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

TEXAS

Angelo State University
Corpus Christi State University
East Texas State University
East Texas State University at Texarkana
Lamar University
Laredo State University
Midwestern State University
North Texas State University
Sam Houston State University
Southwest Texas State University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Sul Ross State University
Texas A & I University
Texas A & M University at Galveston
Texas Southern University
Texas Tech University
Texas Woman's University
University of Houston at Clear Lake City
University of Houston, Victoria Campus
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Texas of the Permian Basin
West Texas State University

UTAH

Southern Utah State College
Weber State College

VERMONT

Castleton State College
Johnson State College
Lyndon State College

VIRGIN ISLANDS

College of the Virgin Islands

VIRGINIA

Christopher Newport College
Clinch Valley College
College of William and Mary
George Mason University
James Madison University
Longwood College
Mary Washington College
Norfolk State College
Old Dominion University
Radford College

WASHINGTON

Central Washington University

Eastern Washington University
Western Washington University

WEST VIRGINIA

Bluefield State College
Concord College
Fairmont State College
Marshall University
Shepherd College
West Liberty State College
West Virginia College of Graduate Studies
West Virginia Institute of Technology
West Virginia State College

WISCONSIN

University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin–La Crosse
University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin–Parkside
University of Wisconsin–Platteville
University of Wisconsin–River Falls
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin–Stout
University of Wisconsin–Superior
University of Wisconsin–Whitewater

AASCU is an organization of 333 state colleges and universities located throughout the United States and in Guam and the Virgin Islands. Two-thirds of the institutions have graduate programs, many have doctoral programs, and a growing number also offer opportunities at the less-than-baccalaureate level. The institutions enroll approximately two and one-half million students, or about one-fourth of the total national college student population, and almost one-third of the students who are in four-year institutions. AASCU institutions have a strong commitment to provide low-cost, high quality undergraduate education which combines the values of the liberal arts with the skills and knowledge of professional and applied career-oriented programs.

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Allan W. Ostar
President

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